



**Jodi Ross**  
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*Please be Aware of  
Limited Town Hall  
Services December 20 -  
23, 2010 During the Move*

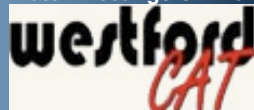
**Employee Spotlight**

*Andrew Sherman for  
receiving the Middlesex  
County District Attorney's  
9/11 Award for 2010 for  
demonstrating  
extraordinary courage,  
bravery, and selflessness  
in the performance of his  
duties as Police  
dispatcher.*

*Captain Joe Targ and  
Dispatcher Supervisor  
Tim Whitcomb for  
receiving a \$7000  
Emergency Management  
Performance Grant.*

*Westford Police  
Department for being  
awarded a \$4200 grant for  
Traffic Enforcement  
measures.*

Watch Meetings Online



www.westfordcat.org

Visit  
www.westfordma.gov  
for current news and  
information.

**Dear Westford Residents,**

**December 2010**

We will be moving back into our newly renovated Town Hall the week of December 20th. Please check our website as several departments will have some interruption of service while they unpack boxes and set up their offices. We are all delighted to relocate back into the center of town, and the Town Hall is beautiful! Once we have unpacked and organized our offices, we will be hosting a Grand Re-opening Event to celebrate the completion of this important project.

It was with sadness that I accepted the resignation of our Town Planner Ross Altobelli, who left our town to move to Texas with his family. Although Ross will be missed, I am pleased to report that Stephen Wallace accepted the planner position and will begin work full-time on January 3. Stephen has 21 years of experience as a planner with skills in zoning, permitting, land use and environmental resource protection. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Stephen as he begins his new position with the town.

The Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, department heads, and I have been meeting weekly to review the initial Fiscal Year 2012 budget. We are anticipating another reduction in state aid, and we are facing a significant deficit at this point in time. We have formed a new Budget Solutions Task Force which is meeting weekly to identify any new areas where we may reduce expenses, and also examine new revenue enhancers. This task force membership includes: two members of the Board of Selectmen, two Finance Committee members, two members of the School Committee, one from Capital Planning, and the Town Manager. We are currently formulating our charge and are pulling together financial data to begin our budget review.

The Board of Selectmen are opening the warrant for our March 26, 2011 Annual Town Meeting on December 14th. Please consult our website for our Annual Town Meeting timeline: [www.westfordma.gov/townmeeting](http://www.westfordma.gov/townmeeting).

Season's Greetings to all of you and thank you again for all you do to keep Westford the very special community it is.

Sincerely,



### Director of Land Use Management Update

#### Wireless Communications Facilities Planning and Bylaw Update Underway

The Planning Board and the ZBA are proceeding with an initiative to evaluate and propose amendments to the Town's bylaw regulating Wireless Communication Facilities (WCF). WCAT aired a recent 30-minute program summarizing the initiative, and a joint public workshop of both Boards held on November 16 was also televised. Both programs are available on the WCAT website. A town webpage dedicated to this issue has also been created, including reference documents, the consultant scope of work, and links to both related WCAT videos. It is online at [www.westfordma.gov/wca](http://www.westfordma.gov/wca)

#### Former Planner moves to Texas

After more than five and a half years of service to the Town of Westford, Ross Altobelli left his position as Planner on November 24, 2010. His work was integral to the functions of the Planning Board and the Board of Appeals these past years, with support to many others. He and his family have moved to Texas to pursue new opportunities. Prior to his departure, a large gathering of staff, Board members, local attorneys and engineers and others met to share recollections of years past and to wish Ross well in his future endeavors.

#### New Planner Hired

A new Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals Planner has been hired. Stephen Wallace will begin work full-time effective January 3, 2011. Stephen has more than 21 years of experience as a professional planner with an emphasis on zoning, permitting, land use and environmental resource protection. He is currently a Planner in the Framingham Division of Community & Economic Development, and prior to that spent nine years as Principal Planner for Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission. He began his planning career in New Hampshire, where he worked for two regional planning commissions and the NH Coastal Program/Office of State Planning for a combined ten years.

Thanks to Town Manager Jodi Ross, Human Resources Director Pam Tebbetts and staff, and the members of the Planning Board, ZBA, Conservation Commission and Board of Selectmen who contributed to the candidate review and interview process. We're excited to welcome Steve to Westford and believe he will be an asset to the community.

#### DLUM Receives Award from Massachusetts Chapter of American Planning Association

Angus Jennings was recently recognized for his work as a planning consultant, completed prior to beginning work in Westford in January 2010. The Awards Committee of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Planning Association (MA-APA) selected the City of Fitchburg's River Street 40R Smart Growth Zoning District to receive an Outstanding Planning Award under the Mid-Size Municipality Planning Project category. Angus served as project manager for the work, and is one of the award recipients.

The award will be presented at the annual MA-APA holiday awards luncheon. The Fitchburg smart growth initiative was also highlighted as a case study in Angus' recent presentation on Adaptive Reuse at an Innovative Zoning Strategies workshop held on December 3, and sponsored by the MA Department of Housing and Community Development.



## **Veterans Services Blog**

The Veterans Services department is trying a new way to communicate veterans' information to our residents. The first method is via the VSL Blog which can be found at [www.westfordma.gov/veterans/blog](http://www.westfordma.gov/veterans/blog).

We will be posting new information as we receive it about various programs and benefit updates of interest to veterans and their families. This information is available through RSS feeds and now also via Twitter. To subscribe to our Twitter feeds, go to <http://twitter.com/WestfordMAVets> and "follow" us.

A recent example of new information, a recent email from a resident was making a query about a telephone solicitation from a veterans "charity". So the questions becomes, how do we know which of these organizations is reputable? For the answer, check out the VSO Blog and take a look at who the Department of Defense shows as the organizations that have met their requirements as a worthy organization to donate to.

As always, send your veterans-related questions to [veterans@westfordma.gov](mailto:veterans@westfordma.gov). We will get back to you shortly and maybe the answer to your question will be valuable information to other vets.

## **Happy Holiday from the Council on Aging**

The Council on Aging and staff wishes everyone the happiest of Holidays. We all received an early gift this year that we are grateful for when we opened the doors to the renovated and expanded Cameron Senior Center. We encourage all seniors to stop by and check out the wide array of activities taking place every day.

The Cameron Senior Center is located at 20 Pleasant Street, Rte. 225 in Forge Village. Our Office hours are Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and we can be reached at 978 692-5523.

Medicare Plans change every year. Many plans will no longer be available in 2011. All people with Medicare should: Review the 2011 costs and coverage of their current plans, compare with other plans in the area, and choose a plan that meets your needs and budget. The Medicare Annual Open Enrollment Period continues through December 31st, for coverage beginning January 1, 2011. There are significant differences between plans. Starting in 2011, different Part D plans in our area will have monthly premiums from as low as \$14.80 up to as high as \$120.10. However monthly premiums are not the only things to consider. Plans have different deductibles, co-pays, covered drugs and restrictions. Plan information and cost estimates can be found by entering a drug list into the Medicare Plan Finder on [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)



**New Town Common Planet Effect Picture by Bill Turner**

